

# Bridging Communities in Cox's Bazar\_ Mitigating Risks and Promoting Gender, Governance and Localization of Humanitarian Responses in COVID-19 Era



BRAC James P Grant School of Public Health (BRAC JPGSPH) is implementing this multi-year project in collaboration and partnership with Centre for Peace and Justice (CPJ).

[Professor Sabina Faiz Rashid](#), Dean, BRAC JPGSPH is the PI of this project.

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**Duration:** 1 August 2020 - 31 July 2023 | **Status:** Ongoing

The overall objective of the project is to provide critical evidence to influence policies and interventions that could promote tolerance and peacebuilding, encourage civic engagement, and facilitate psycho-social well-being. The intervention applies gender-transformative approaches to mitigate the adverse impacts of COVID-19 on the most vulnerable groups (MVGs) of the refugees and host communities in Cox's Bazar.

The project promotes action-based research aimed at producing intervention options in a participatory manner to bridge the community with various stakeholders and policymakers involved in the humanitarian response in Cox's Bazar. The JPGSPH is leading the research component while CPJ oversees the intervention part of the project. The project's overarching objectives will be

**Bridging Communities in Cox's Bazar: Mitigating Risks and Promoting Gender, Governance and Localization of Humanitarian Responses in COVID-19 Era**

**Project Duration:** 30 Months (August 2020 to July 2023) | **Project Location:** Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh

**Population:** Host and FDMN communities

**Partner organizations:**

- BRAC James P Grant School of Public Health (JPGSPH), BRAC University
- Centre for Peace and Justice (CPJ), BRAC University

**Funded by:** International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Canada

**Overall objectives:** The overall objective of the project is to provide critical evidence to influence policies and interventions that will promote tolerance and peace building, encourage civic engagement and facilitate psycho-social well-being among the Forcibly Displaced Myanmar Nationals (FDMN) and host communities in Cox's Bazar.

**Project Description:** BRAC James P Grant School of Public Health (JPGSPH) and Centre for Peace and Justice (CPJ) of BRAC University have collaboratively undertaken a participatory action research to co-create new approaches to promote greater localization of humanitarian interventions. JPGSPH is the project lead and also leading the research component, and CPJ will lead the intervention component in the project. The project will use gender-transformative approaches to mitigate the adverse impacts of COVID-19 on the most vulnerable groups (MVGs) of FDMN and host communities in Cox's Bazar.

The overarching objectives will be achieved by implementing three separate but inter-connected work packages (WPs):

**Work Package-1 (Year-One):** Raise awareness and preparedness around the COVID-19 pandemic in Rohingya camps and host communities by undertaking a rapid assessment through survey.

**Work Package-2 (Year-Two):** Help mitigate safety and security risks of most vulnerable groups MVGs and other vulnerable groups in the post COVID-19 period through: generation of in-depth evidence on the challenges, which include: safety & security, social cohesion, and psychosocial well-being faced by women, adolescents and youth and other MVGs in FDMN and host communities. Participatory research methods will be applied to support the processes to empower women and adolescents from FDMN and host communities. A total 3000 community people (women, adolescent and youth, elderly people, camp CEOs, MAWs, Inmate and Teachers) will be reached over time by 30 Youth Volunteers (YVs) through Interpersonal Communication (IPC) approaches.

**Work Package-3 (Year-Three):** Enhance constructive civic engagement, social cohesion and gender sensitivity among and between Rohingya FDMN and host communities. CPJ will provide civic education and training to community youth and CEOs and facilitate civic engagement initiatives and local level advocacy. More than 600 community people (youth and CEOs representatives) will receive civic engagement training. BRAC JPGSPH will apply participatory research approaches to understand the effectiveness of the interventions.

Finally, there will be a wider dissemination of research findings through meetings and dialogues with government representatives, volunteers, CEOs, local NGOs, and UN agencies to share emerging findings and recommendations, using online and offline platforms.

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achieved by implementing the three separates but strongly inter-connected following work packages (WPs).

#### **Work Package-1: (Year-One)**

Raise awareness and preparedness around the COVID-19 pandemic in Rohingya camps and host communities by undertaking a rapid assessment of the COVID context through a short baseline and end-line survey; focused ethnographies with communities; and formulation of key lessons learned for policy dissemination. A total of 3600 people will be reached directly with the COVID-19 awareness messages under the work-package.

#### **Work Package-2: (Year-Two)**

Help mitigate safety and security risks of MVGs and other vulnerable groups in the post -COVID-19 period through generation of in-depth evidence on the challenges around safety & security, social cohesion, and psychosocial well-being faced by women, adolescents & youth and other MVGs in refugee and host communities. This will include the design of participatory research methods with accompanying supportive processes to empower women and adolescents from refugee and host communities. A total of 3000 community people (women, adolescents & youth, elderly people, camp CSOs, *Majhi*, *Imams* and Teachers) will be reached repeatedly by 30 youth volunteers through work-package 2.

#### **Work Package-3: (Year-Three)**

Enhance constructive civic engagement, social cohesion and gender sensitivity among and between the Rohingya refugees and host communities in Cox's Bazar. CPJ will provide civic education and training to the community youth and CBOs and facilitate civic engagement initiatives and local level advocacy. More than 600 community people (youth and CBOs representatives will receive the Civic engagement training under – work package 3.

Finally, the research findings will be disseminated through meetings and dialogues with government representatives, volunteers, CBOs, local NGOs, and UN agencies.

#### **PUBLICATIONS:**

1. **"Crisis within a Crisis": Situation Analysis and Post-Fire Incident Rapid Assessment of Affected Rohingya Camps**  
[Full Report](#)
2. **Behavioural Change Campaign: Covid-19 perception among Rohingyas**  
[Read More](#)
3. **Potential Barriers to Covid-19 vaccination in Rohingya Camps**  
[Read More](#)

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